

# BOUNDARY AREA FISHERY MONITORING, 1988

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## Boundary Area Fishery Monitoring

Final Report - 1988

### Summary of Progress

#### Work Accomplishments

#### District 4 Purse Seine

The District 4 purse seine fishery was managed according to the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Under the terms of the Treaty the fishery was to be managed from 1985 to 1988 to result in a maximum four year total harvest of 480,000 sockeye salmon prior to statistical week 31.

Over the course of the first three years of the Treaty (1985 - 1987) the harvest of sockeye salmon had totaled approximately 265,000 prior to week 31. That left approximately 215,000 sockeye salmon to be harvested in 1988 prior to week 31.

The 1988 opening date for District 4 was July 3, the first Sunday in July (5AAC 33.310). The initial opening (stat. week 28) encompassed 39 hours. Approximately 16,280 sockeye salmon were harvested by 81 boats during this opening. In statistical week 29 three fishing days were allowed (July 10 - 11; 14) for a total of 54 hours. One hundred sixty-seven purse seine vessels harvested 131,000 sockeye for a total of 147,280 sockeye salmon harvested in the first two weeks. This left approximately 67,720 sockeye left to be harvested under the terms of the Treaty. A fifteen hour opening on July 17 was allowed. A harvest of 101,500 sockeye salmon by 182 boats occurred during this opening. Four overflights of district 4 were conducted during this time period to document purse seine effort in the district.

The total number of sockeye salmon caught during the Treaty period in 1988 was approximately 248,780. This resulted in a four year harvest of 513,780 fish, approximately 33,780 sockeye over the Treaty obligations. The harvest of 101,500 sockeye salmon during the 15 hour opening on July 17 was the largest single day harvest of sockeye salmon in District 4.

Table 1 shows the 1985 to 1988 sockeye salmon harvest in District 4 prior to statistical week 31.

TABLE 1: DISTRICT 4 PURSE SEINE SOCKEYE HARVEST, WEEKS 28-30

1985	101,000
1986	92,000
1987	72,000
1988	248,780
TOTAL	513,780

From statistical week 31 through the final opening in Stat. Week 36, the District 4 purse seine fishery was managed based on the pink salmon returns to southern Southeast. The pink salmon return was well under the 1988 forecast of 44 million. A total of 18 days were fished in the district for the season, six days prior to Stat. Week 31, and twelve days after the Treaty period. The 1988 total sockeye harvest in District 4 was 591,220, the second highest in the history of the fishery.

Three PSC negotiating sessions were attended this past year: two in Vancouver, B.C. on November 28 through December 2, and from January 17 through January 25; and one in Portland, OR on February 7 through February

17. Two Northern Boundary Technical Committee meetings were attended, one in Seattle on October 10 through October 13, and one at Auke Bay Lab on May 12, 1989.

The results of the negotiating sessions were disappointing. No new agreement was reached on the District 4 fishery. Current Annex language was "rolled over" to cover 1989. The 1989 season will be managed for a harvest of 120,000 sockeye salmon prior to statistical week 31, with any overage or underage being taken into account during the 1989/90 negotiating sessions.

#### TREE POINT

The District 1 Tree point gill net fishery was managed in 1988 to comply with the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (5AAC 33.361), the District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan (5AAC 33.360), and to minimize, to the extent possible, the interception of salmon destined for watersheds where weak runs were expected. Also during this time frame aerial surveys of lower District 1 and Portland Canal were done to index chum and pink salmon escapements. The Foggy Bay field station was operated during the 1988 Tree Point fishing season as in past years.

The Treaty specifies an average harvest of 130,000 sockeye salmon at Tree Point. During the course of the 1988 season approximately 116,000 sockeye salmon were harvested. The average annual harvest at Tree Point since the inception of the Treaty (1985) is approximately 134,250 sockeye salmon. The yearly total sockeye harvest is listed in Table 2:

TABLE 2: TREE POINT YEARLY SOCKEYE HARVEST

1985	167,000
1986	146,000
1987	108,000
1988	116,000
MEAN	134,250

The Pink Salmon Management Plan was initiated in statistical week 29 (July 10). During the succeeding seven weeks the gill net fishery was managed for the harvest of pink salmon. During this period, catches of all species, except chum salmon, remained below average. Fishing time was generally reduced below the previous 10 year average due to the poor return of pink salmon to District 1. The fishery was completely closed during week 35 to conserve pink salmon.

Fishing periods during the final four weeks of the season were curtailed and confined to daylight openings, with early morning and evening sets eliminated for coho conservation. A mesh restriction was also in place to protect pink salmon.

Section 1-B remained closed through the season north of Akeku Point. This kept Portland Canal closed through the season. Chum escapements to Portland Canal watersheds appear to have been good. The chum catch of 497,000 was the highest harvest ever at Tree Point. Preliminary tag recovery analysis shows that approximately 34% (173,000 chum) of the total catch of chum originated from the Nakat Inlet releases.

The Tree Point Annex catch is a long term yearly average and, as such, the Annex was not open for negotiations during the PSC meetings in November, January, and February. Work assignments completed for the Technical Committee during the past year included a comprehensive report on southern Southeast chum salmon enhancement and a literature search on mesh size used in gill net fisheries with the hope of finding a useable mesh to conserve chum salmon destined for Portland Canal.

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